

Secretary LaHood, welcome back to St. Paul – it is wonderful to have you here. I also want to welcome Administrator Peter Rogoff back to the Twin Cities. Thank you both for being here today.

For the ten years that I have been in Congress, all of us in this community have been working together, both public and private partners, to invest in our transportation future. Friends, the future is now. Work has started on over \$1 billion worth of transportation investment.

This beautiful building – the Union Depot – is being restored and it's coming back to life as a transportation hub. The Central Corridor is being built – connecting St. Paul and Minneapolis with a transit line that will move people, create more jobs, and strengthen our Twin Cities' economy. At a time when Minnesota and America needs more jobs, we have thousands of Minnesotans working because of a strong partnership between local, state and federal government – with the strong support of our private sector partners. Because of Central Corridor and Union Depot, thousands of men and women in hard hats are paying their mortgages, buying groceries, buying school clothes for their kids, and keeping their families and our community strong.

Today, our nation's top transportation leaders are here in Saint Paul because this partnership is an example of what can and should be done all across the country.

Our country is facing big challenges. Millions of construction workers are on the bench. In too many places our nation's infrastructure is crumbling. We cannot allow our global competitors to pass us by. We need jobs in America. And, we need to invest in America's future.

It's time for Congress to stop the endless partisan game playing. It's time for lawmakers to quit the coffee breaks and stop the tea partying. It is time for Congress to get to work putting America back to work. President Obama has my strong support for more critical investment in transportation infrastructure.

The time for Congress to pass the President Obama's *American Jobs Act* is now! America needs more projects like the Union Depot and Central Corridor. They are evidence of what can

happen in America and they are examples of what must happen for our country to stay competitive.

Secretary LaHood, Mr. Rogoff, Again, thank you for being here today. Thank you for your commitment to job creation and the investments that create jobs – right here in St. Paul. Thank you.